



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
JERUSALEM

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

WEEKLY MAILING

May 4, 2012

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Official Websites:

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://arabic.jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://gaza.usvpp.gov>

<http://arabic.gaza.usvpp.gov>

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Thank You!

President Obama on World Press Freedom Day



“No matter the cause, when journalists are intimidated, attacked, imprisoned, or disappeared, individuals begin to self-censor, fear replaces truth, and all of our societies suffer. A culture of impunity for such actions must not be allowed to persist in any country. This year, across the Middle East, North Africa and beyond, the world witnessed not only these perils, but also the promise that a free press holds for fostering innovative, successful, and stable democracies. On this World Press Freedom Day, we call upon all governments to seize that promise by recognizing the vital role of a free press and taking the necessary steps to create societies in which independent journalists can operate freely and without fear.”

Secretary Clinton's World Press Freedom Day Video Message



"Today we celebrate the contributions that journalists make to the struggle for human dignity, liberty and prosperity, and we also celebrate the enduring principle enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – that all people have the right to freely express their views, no matter who they are, where they live, or what those views may be.

Over the past year, these principles have come to the forefront as places throughout the Middle East and North Africa embrace change. Voice by voice, text by text, Tunisians, Egyptians, Libyans and many others have dared to say what they believe and stand up for their own rights. Many others have dared to report on what they see happening, even when their lives were at risk.

But these challenges are not limited to just one region. Every year, dozens of journalists are killed, beaten, and threatened, while hundreds of others languish in prisons for exercising their right to free expression. Their imprisonment and intimidation is a global injustice. When a free media is under attack anywhere, all human rights are under attack everywhere.

That is why the United States joins its global partners in calling for the release of all imprisoned journalists in every country across the globe and for the end to intimidation.

Let us honor the many brave men and women who risk their lives every day to keep the rest of us informed, to keep governments accountable and societies more democratic, prosperous and successful. And let us continue to champion those who stand for media freedom as a powerful force for progress. Thank you for what you are doing."

Consul General on World Press Freedom Day



On World Press Freedom Day we celebrate the principles of press freedom and remember those who have fought to preserve them. We also pay tribute to courageous and responsible journalists worldwide and the contributions they make each day to promote the development of civil societies and democracies across the globe. ..

The U.S. is committed to preserving the Internet and other connective technologies as platforms where people can freely interact, collaborate, and debate issues that are important to them. As Secretary Clinton said in December 2011, "When ideas are blocked, information deleted, conversations stifled, and people constrained in their choices, the internet is diminished for all of us."....

I salute you today on the important role you play, through your responsible and accurate reporting, in strengthening the institutions of a future Palestinian state. We know you face many challenges in doing your jobs. But, I urge you not to give up hope and to continue your tireless efforts to promote press freedom in your communities, the Palestinian Territories and around the world.

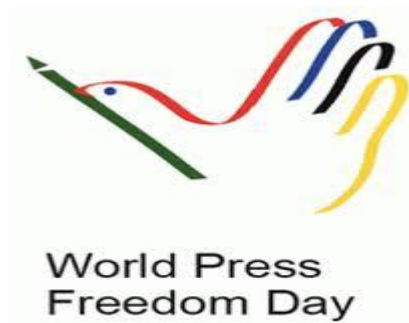
كلمة القنصل العام روبنستين في حفل القنصلية بمناسبة اليوم العالمي لحرية الصحافة لعام ٢٠١٢

"في اليوم العالمي لحرية الصحافة نحتفل بمبادئ الصحافة الحرة ونذكر أولئك الذين قاتلوا للحفاظ عليها. كما اننا نشكر الصحفيين الشجعان والمسؤولين حول العالم ونثني على المساهمات التي يقومون بها كل يوم لتشجيع تطور المجتمعات المدنية والديمقراطيات حول العالم.

ان الولايات المتحدة ملتزمة بالحفاظ على الانترنت وتقنيات الاتصال كمنابر تمكن الناس من التفاعل بحرية ومن ان يتعاونوا و يناقشوا قضايا مهمة لهم. كما قالت الوزيرة كلينتون في عام ٢٠١١، " حين يتم حجب الافكار وحذف المعلومات وتكليم المحادثات ويواجه الناس عقبات في اختياراتهم حينها تكون الانترنت قد اختفت."

انا احبيكم اليوم على الدور المهم الذي تقومون به من خلال تقاريركم المسؤولة و الدقيقة، و في تعزيز المؤسسات للدولة الفلسطينية المستقبلية. نحن نعلم انكم تواجهون العديد من التحديات اثناء تأدية عملكم ولكني احثكم على ان لا تيأسوا و ان تواصلوا جهودكم التي لا تنتضب لتشجيع حرية الصحافة في مجتمعاتكم و في الاراضي الفلسطينية والعالم."

Assistant Secretary Brimmer in Tunis on World Press Freedom Day



“We gather here in Tunis a year later to mark progress against the aspirations and objectives expressed in that Declaration, and in the context of the dramatic social and political events that began here in Tunisia and transpired across the region... Ladies and gentlemen, last year’s events focused particular attention on the rapid expansion of internet and other social media, and the role of those technologies in empowering civil society. We see evidence of that empowerment every day, and even in the most difficult of environments, such as in Syria, those connective technologies ensure that the world witnesses the truth of what is happening on the ground.”

State Dept., USAID Support for Press Freedom

FACT SHEET

Highlights of the U.S. Department of State and USAID’s Efforts to Support Press and Media Freedom

On World Press Freedom Day — and every day — the United States honors and supports media freedom at home and abroad. Press freedom is a key element of the freedom of expression, which is a foundation for other universal human rights. In 2011, the United States hosted the international World Press Freedom Day activities in Washington, D.C. This year, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations Esther Brimmer is leading the U.S. delegation to a World Press Freedom conference in Tunisia, May 2-6; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kathy Fitzpatrick of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor will also attend.

As a part of its "[Free the Press](http://www.FreeThePress.org)" campaign, the Department of State is documenting on www.HumanRights.gov emblematic cases of journalists living and working under threat and duress because of their efforts to exercise the freedom of expression. We call on all governments to protect the universal human right to freedom of expression.

- Advancing media freedom is a regular part of U.S. diplomatic work. We advocate for freedom of expression and raise media freedom issues, including specific cases, in bilateral discussions with other governments and in multilateral bodies, including but not limited to the UN Human Rights Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of American States. At the OSCE, for example, the United States has been a leading voice for freedom of expression and the defense of journalists, and championed a Ministerial Declaration to support fundamental freedoms in the Digital Age.

USG Alumni Gather at Conference to “Work for a Cause, Not for Applause”



Through a grant from The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, Amideast launched the Alumni Networking and Community Engagement Program “Work for a Cause, Not for Applause” at the Intercontinental Hotel in Jericho. The two-day conference targeted 75 student and professional alumni from various U.S. Government -funded programs, such as YES, Access, Fulbright, Hubert Humphrey, SUSI, IVLP, MEPI, A-PLUS, and others.

With the goal of connecting older alumni with the younger generation of U.S. Government program attendees, professional alumni from different U.S. Government programs worked together with the help of Amideast to organize a two-day conference between April 19- 20 to educate one another and exchange experiences, with a focus on several different areas of interest for community engagement. The conference offered alumni from many different programs the opportunity to meet one another for the first time, and to cooperate on initiatives to improve their communities.

Panelists from the professional alumni group conducted presentations on three topics of concern to the young alumni and their communities, including *Community Awareness: Youth Beyond the Arab Spring*, *Public Health*, and *The Environment*.

For the second day of the conference, participants from the student alumni were matched with professional alumni mentors in 12 groups to develop a project proposal that addressed a need in their home communities. The day concluded with all alumni attendees gathering to listen to the presentations on the 12 initiatives, several of which will be funded as part of the grant.



America House in Jerusalem

is pleased to announce the following upcoming programs
at our new location in the Consulate building on Nablus Road

Open Hours for the library during May:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

(Please note: The library will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day)

Come and browse our books and magazines.
Feel free to take a book outside and read in the garden.

Afternoon Trivia

Enjoy a fun-filled Jeopardy-style game!

Monday, May 7, 2012, 4:30 PM at America House

Come and play an American-style quiz show featuring trivia in history, literature, the arts, pop culture, science, sports, geography, music, and other topics. We will ask questions in the form of answers, and participants must give their responses in question form – just like on the game show “Jeopardy.”

Teams can be made up of 1-4 persons, ages 14 and up, so bring a friend or two or three! Questions will be in English, but teams can answer in Arabic if they choose.

English Corner

Come out and practice your English

Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 4:00 PM at America House

Are you trying to improve your English? Do you find yourself too shy to speak sometimes?

Come to America House and join us for some casual English conversation practice. All levels are welcome at this first session. We'll organize into groups and get to know each other – no tests! no quizzes! – just plain fun. This session is for high school and college youth ages 14 and up.

For those of you who have a high level of English, we encourage you to come and join us too and help others to improve their English.

Please let us know if you can join us for either program by e-mailing JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov

To be added to America House's mailing list, please e-mail JerusalemAmericaHouse@state.gov

America House is the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem's cultural center in East Jerusalem and was established in 2010.

U.S. Waives Congressional Restriction on Palestinian Aid



Susan Rice, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, said on April 23 that the United States had recently met with representatives of Russia, the United Nations, and the European Union, collectively known as “the Quartet,” and had discussed the importance of fostering continued international support for the PA’s institution-building efforts.

“In order to realize a future where Palestinians live in a sovereign state of their own, we must vigorously support the difficult steps needed to build the institutions and capacities of a future Palestinian state,” Rice said.

“The United States echoes the Quartet’s call for continued international support for institution-building by the Palestinian Authority, including for contributions toward the \$1.1 billion required to meet the Palestinian Authority’s 2012 recurrent financing requirements,” she said. “This funding is essential to preserve and build on the Palestinian Authority’s institutional gains and to expand economic opportunities for the Palestinian people.”

الولايات المتحدة تستبعد القيود التي فرضها الكونغرس الأميركي على المعونات للفلسطينيين

وكانت سوزان رايس، المندوبة الأميركية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة، قد أعلنت يوم ٢٣ الجاري أن بلادها التقت مؤخرا مع ممثلي روسيا والأمم المتحدة والإتحاد الأوروبي الذين يشكلون معا اللجنة الرباعية لبحث أهمية تشجيع مواصلة الدعم الدولي لجهود السلطة الفلسطينية لبناء مؤسسات الدولة.

وقالت رايس: “الغرض تحقيق مستقبل يعيش فيه الفلسطينيون في دولة ذات سيادة خاصة بهم، علينا أن نؤيد بإقدام الخطوات الصعبة المطلوبة لبناء مؤسسات وقدرات دولة فلسطينية مستقبلية.”

واستطردت قائلة: “إن الولايات المتحدة تردد دعوة الرباعية لمواصلة الدعم الدولي لبناء السلطة الفلسطينية مؤسسات تابعة لها بما في ذلك تأييد تقديم مساهمات قيمتها ١,١ بليون دولار لسد احتياجات التمويل المتكررة للسلطة في ٢٠١٢. وهذا التمويل ضروري للحفاظ على مكتسبات السلطة المؤسساتية ولزيادة الفرص الاقتصادية للشعب الفلسطيني.”

U.S. Focuses on Partnerships with Youth



The United States is focusing on “grass-roots partnerships” with young people around the world, making youth issues part of its foreign policy, says Ronan Farrow, special adviser on global youth issues to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Farrow, who is just 24 himself, is the director of the State Department’s Office of Global Youth Issues, which Clinton created with the goal of empowering young people as economic and civic actors.

Speaking with journalists at the U.S. Foreign Press Center in New York City on April 23, Farrow said U.S. embassies around the world are developing youth councils with local young people who offer their insights into the effects of U.S. foreign policy on their communities. These councils exist in some 40 countries, he said, and perform constructive work by providing the embassies with formal policy recommendations.

“All around the world, we’ve been making a concerted effort to stand by young people,” Farrow said. “That conversation is not always easy. We don’t walk into communities and expect young people everywhere to trust and agree with the United States. ... But I think that we have made strides towards bringing young people to the table and giving them a serious role in our policy process.”

These councils, he said, also encourage youth to find solutions to problems within their own homelands. A newly established U.S. Embassy council in Latvia, for example, included two young members who, using a small U.S. grant, started an e-petition system that is now used by 20 percent of Latvians. Under Latvian law, Farrow said, anyone who develops an idea, launches a petition and wins a certain number of votes can see that idea passed into law.

The U.S. government, Farrow said, invests \$100 million each year to engage the world’s youth through a variety of programs ranging from health care to education to job training. In addition to funding those programs, Farrow said, the Obama administration is “innovating to make sure that young people are in the driver’s seat as we undertake all of that programming.”

The young, Farrow said, are often champions of human rights, economic change and entrepreneurship. He said in the last year the world has seen the power of young people as a positive force for change with the unseating of repressive regimes. Farrow also noted that worldwide, people under 30 years old are three times more likely to be unemployed. Frustrated youth are targets for extremists. “Not having a job,” he said, “not having a way to make one’s voice heard peacefully, can boil over into chaos, where we see young people as a destabilizing force rather than one for positive change.”

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces the 2013 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) are pleased to announce the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program for FY 2013.

The Fulbright FLTA Program is a nine-month non-degree program that provides young teachers of English an opportunity to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States. FLTAs work as teaching assistants for their native language (Arabic) to U.S. students, thus strengthening foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities. Fulbright FLTA participants also interact with their host communities in conversation groups, extracurricular activities, and community outreach projects. Fulbright FLTA participants must return to their home countries upon completion of the program. **Deadline: July 30, 2012.**

Fairhaven Project: Science-Maritime Education Program

The Fairhaven Project at the Northeast Maritime Institute (NMI) brings three Palestinians and three Israelis (between 17-19 years old) to the U.S. to NMI's facilities in Fairhaven, Massachusetts from July 1th through August 4th, 2012. NMI covers the visa expenses, round-trip airfare and food and living expenses. The goal is to promote science-maritime education and cooperation between neighboring peoples.

For more information about the program: <http://www.northeastmaritime.com>.

NMI Contact information:

Laura Frazier

32 Washington Street

Fairhaven, Mass. 02719 USA

Email: laura@northeastmaritime.com

See:

Students Across Globe Can Take Online Courses at U.S. Universities

Some of America's most elite universities, including Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), are experimenting with free online courses that give thousands of motivated students around the world the opportunity to learn sophisticated skills and earn informal credentials.

التعلم عن طريق الإنترنت يفتح أبواب الجامعات الأميركية أمام الدارسين من ربوع العالم

يختبر بعض من الجامعات المرموقة التي تعد في مصافي معاهد النخبة في الولايات المتحدة، ومنها جامعة ستانفورد ومعهد ماساشوسنيس للتكنولوجيا، برامج تقدم من خلالها مناهج دراسية مجانية عن طريق الإنترنت تتيح لآلاف الطلاب المحفزين حول العالم فرصة التحصيل العملي في مهارات متطورة واكتساب وثائق معتمدة غير رسمية.



International and Regional News

[Obama and Karzai Sign Strategic Partnership Agreement](#)

[الرئيسان أوباما وكرزاي يوقعان اتفاقية الشراكة الإستراتيجية](#)

[Obama Says No Excuse for Atrocities](#)

[الولايات المتحدة تحث السودان وجنوب السودان على وقف الأعمال العدائية واستئناف المحادثات](#)

[Journalism Student Webchat with Ambassador Rice](#)

[العاملون في الإغاثة يريدون إزالة العوائق أمام مساعدة المحتاجين في سوريا](#)

[“America and the World” - Secretary Clinton at Syracuse University](#)

[الحكومة الأميركية تستهدف منتهكي استخدام الكمبيوتر في إيران وسوريا](#)

[International Partnership Supports Arab Nations in Transition](#)

[السفيرة رايس توضح في مجلس الأمن الدولي التصويت على القرار الخاص بالسودان وجنوب السودان](#)

[USAID Partners for Entrepreneurial Action](#)

[وزارة المالية: أمر تنفيذي جديد يستهدف منتهكي العقوبات على إيران وسوريا](#)

[USAID, Science Foundation Support Developing World Research](#)

[الولايات المتحدة وسلطنة عمان تبحثان المسائل العمالية من اتفاقية التجارة الحرة بينهما](#)

[U.S. Urges Sudan, South Sudan to Cease Hostilities](#)

[برنامج أميركي يسعى لاجتذاب النساء للعمل في مجال الطاقة النظيفة](#)

[U.S. Targets Computer Abusers in Iran, Syria](#)

[الولايات المتحدة تدعم أهداف الطاقة النظيفة للمملكة العربية السعودية](#)

[State, USAID Officials on U.S. Humanitarian Aid to Syria](#)

[بيان مجموعة الدول الثماني حول شراكة دوفيل مع البلدان العربية التي تمر في مرحلة انتقالية](#)